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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1909.

The Forgotten Tariff Commission.

What has become of the tariff commission
that was so loudly demanded by the
National Manufacturers' Association, and
that President Taft was supposed to favor
as a means of taking the tariff out of
politics and putting the matter of revision
on a business basis?

In the middle of February there was
held in Indianapolis a convention of busi-
ness men, manufacturers, and statesmen,
who strongly resolved that a tariff com-
mission should be created at the special
session of Congress. "We are here," said
James W. Van Cleave, permanent chair-
man of the convention, "to give concrete
expression to the demand of the business
men of the country for the establishment
of a permanent, nonpartisan, impartial
tariff commission to gather the facts and
to frame the report on which Congress
can base the tariff adjustments which are
necessary from time to time. And I am
glad to tell you that in voicing this de-
mand President-elect Taft stands with us."

The then President-elect had endorsed
the tariff commission idea in a letter to
Henry Reisenberg, a promoter of the
Indianapolis convention, and later defined
his views more accurately in a letter to
Chairman Payne, of the Ways and Means
Committee, which views were accepted
and approved by the Indianapolis reform-
ers. In that letter Mr. Taft wrote:

"A tariff commission would be harmful or useful
as its functions were described in the bill. My own
idea has been that there ought to be a permanent
commission of tariff experts to keep themselves ad-
vised by all the means possible of the cost of pro-
ducing the articles named in the schedule in foreign
countries and in this country.

"I think that what we lack is evidence, and some
such means might very well be used for the purpose
of securing it."

"I should be the last to advocate a commission
with any power to fix rates, if that were constitu-
tional, as it would not be, or with any function
other than that of furnishing the evidence to Con-
gress upon which from time to time it might act."

That was prior to March 4. Mr. Taft
is now President. His inaugural address
is silent on the subject of a tariff com-
mission, and so is his message to Con-
gress of a few days since. Whatever
views he may entertain as to the present
desirability of a tariff commission, if he
has any, he is keeping to himself. It is
evident that Mr. Taft will not be given to
wasting words on useless recommendations.
Doubtless he has been informed by the
leaders of the House and Senate that
Congress will tolerate no such foolishness
as a tariff commission. In fact, there was
a very circumstantial report to that effect
shortly before Mr. Taft took office.

Then of what value, under the circum-
stances, is Mr. Van Cleave's assurance to
the Indianapolis convention that Mr. Taft
"stands with us"?

"Will the republic endure?" inquires
Mr. Thomas W. Lawson. The fact that it
has endured Mr. Lawson so long ought to
be proof positive of its abundant ability
to stand anything.

"Ragtime" to the Rear.

Mr. John Philip Sousa says the public
demand for so-called "ragtime" melodies
has absolutely died away, and that it is
only on rare occasions his band renders
one, and then only as a third or fourth
encore number. So thoroughly, more-
over, is the famous band leader im-
pressed with the truth of his observation
that he says he will not permit organiza-
tions over which he has control to play
this class of music in the future under
any circumstances.

We think this should carry an addition-
al measure of conviction to the souls of
those optimistic people who have of late
allowed themselves to believe that we are
entering a more cultured era, as con-
cerns not only music, but the kindred
arts as well. The day has passed, if
managers are to be believed, when the
hodgepodge and slapstick musical comedy
may be considered a paying undertaking.
The public has grown intensely weary of
that form of amusement, and it has given
way to much better things, and that, too,
notwithstanding the fact that the pro-
gress to ideal things is yet somewhat far
from complete. "Ragtime" played its
ignoble part in many of the now discarded
musical comedy successes, and the dis-
appearance of the one was, naturally,
largely identical to the disappearance
of the other.

It is rather surprising to look back at
this time and contemplate the yesterdays,
when we were all whistling "Won't You
Come Home, Bill Bailey?" "Mr. Johnson,
Turn Me Loose," and "I Want a Real
Coon," the while we might have been
turning our efforts to better and more
elevating things of musical persuasion;
albeit, perhaps, not such things even in
that event as would have been approved
by ultraconservatives and extreme purists
in that actually blessed heaven reserved
for the few elect. We contend that, for
instance, while the "Merry Widow"
waltz may not be the ultimate Thule of
musical excellence, it is high up in the
realm of things worth while when con-
sidered in contrast with "I Guess I'll
Have to Telegraph My Baby."

And so, we think we are able to view
the passing of "ragtime" with a resigna-

tion that knows nothing whatsoever of
sorrow. For its epitaph we shall incline
to write, "Gone, but not regretted." It
was such stuff as, take it all in all, let
us hope, we shall not hear the like of
again.

In his memoirs, Mr. Platt says he once
sang in the village choir. If he was able
to maintain peace therein, it is no wonder
he afterward became a master politician.

The Brownsville Court.

The President will shortly announce
the composition of the army court of
inquiry which, under Senator Foraker's
law, will determine the eligibility to re-
enlistment of former enlisted men of the
Twenty-fifth Infantry, who were dis-
charged without honor, in November,
1906, on account of the Brownsville af-
fray. In carrying out the provisions of
the law, it is necessary to establish a
court of five officers, none of whom is to
be below the grade of colonel.

The members of the court are to go over
the records and to read or listen to tes-
timony which shall enable them to de-
cide whether the individual applicant for
re-enlistment may be regarded as having
so little knowledge of the shooting at
Brownsville, in August of 1906, as to jus-
tify his return to the military service.

There are indications that many of these
former colored soldiers will present them-
selves for re-enlistment, inasmuch as
those who are re-enlisted will receive pay
and allowances in full as if they had not
been separated from the service, and their
period of leave will count as if they had
been at work when it comes to computing
the service toward retirement.

It is an eminently just method of set-
tling the trouble which grew out of the
attack at Brownsville, assuming that
most of the soldiers who were stationed
at that place knew nothing of the episode,
it will evidently be necessary to appoint
on the court men of discernment and im-
partiality with enough time at their
disposal to do the work thoroughly, and
it is for this reason that retired officers
of high rank should be chosen, instead of
those on the active list.

It is only natural that some of the mili-
tary authorities should be found ex-
pressing a doubt as to the wisdom of the
re-enlistment of these soldiers, largely
on account of the possible impression it
will give among colored soldiers that they
have "won out." While the military au-
thorities have a duty to perform in see-
ing that justice is accomplished, the
members of the colored race may also be
cautioned against making too much of
an "issue" of the incident. The colored
soldiers can best serve their own inter-
est by behaving themselves and by fur-
nishing no more occasions for discipline.
It will be discouraging to their friends,
in and out of Congress, if there is a
repetition of outbreaks on the part of
colored soldiers, and it would not take
very much, if these difficulties continue,
to justify the recommendation of legis-
lation which will disband the two com-
panies of infantry and two troops of
cavalry composed of colored soldiers.

Those who fight and lose the day may
live to serve on the Committee on Ven-
eration and Acoustics, or the Committee
on the Whereforeness of the Why.

Japan and Korea.

Undoubtedly the greatest and most sub-
stantial benefit gained by Japan in the
Russo-Japanese war was the putting of
the island empire firmly in possession of
the fertile land of Korea, throughout
which, up to the time of the war, Rus-
sian influence had seemed destined to
become most prominent. The establish-
ment of the Japanese throughout the
Korean empire was not accomplished
without much friction, considerable bad
management, and a lot of ill feeling.
Those who knew Korea in the period im-
mediately following the war saw that
the immediate result of making the Ja-
panese force dominant in Korean towns
and villages was markedly demoralizing.
But undoubtedly in the time that has
passed since then Japan has done enor-
mously good work for the land and its
people, though it has been done, of
course, at the cost of Korean independence.

Prince (formerly Marquis) Ito, educated
in England, and of all the elder states-
men the nearest to the Japanese throne,
has been the resident general ever since
the war. A report on the reforms and
progress in Korea, compiled by the res-
ident general, has recently been sub-
mitted. While the report does not attempt
to disclose the motive which is impelling
Japan in her operations in Korea,
whether it is hoped in time to make
Korea an integral part of the Japanese
empire or whether the reforms are in-
tended to help the Koreans toward ulti-
mate self-government does not appear.
But if the report may be trusted, it is
clear that the Japanese have accomplish-
ed great things in the land over which
they have settled. By a change of the
law the resident general has become
practically the absolute ruler of Korea,
and the powers of the Korean empire as
a government are entirely subservient to
the residency. This makes it apparent
that whatever reforms the resident gen-
eral may plan to carry out, they will be
backed with ample power.

It is perhaps for the reason of giving
Prince Ito an absolutely free hand that
the imperial household of Korea has been
brought under strict regulations. Under
the supervision of a department of inves-
tigation the properties of the imperial
house have been defined, and this has re-
sulted in the elimination of corruption in
the sale of official positions. A cabinet
has been organized, composed of a min-
ister, president of state, and ministers of
home affairs, finance, education, war, jus-
tice, and commercial affairs, and in or-
der to secure the efficient working of
these departments the vice minister of
state is also a Japanese.

The separation of the imperial house-
hold of Korea from the state has made
possible the operation of the affairs of
the state through the residency general
without any conflict with the Emperor
and his retinue. By means of this new
cabinet, reforms on all lines have been
undertaken. Laws have been codified,
new administration for prisons provided,
model forests planted, government build-
ings constructed, new schools opened,
modern sanitation commenced, and so on.
The basis of all these reforms has been
the entire overhauling of the financial

system. And this, in turn, is entailing
the establishment of national treasuries
and the placing of the financial concerns of
the Korean government in the hands of a
Japanese bank, Dai-Ichi-Ginko. The cur-
rency reforms have included the with-
drawal of the old nickel coins and of
copper "cash," and the inauguration of
a new currency along modern lines.
The work which is being carried on in
Korea is colossal, and reflects much
credit on the organizing and executive
capacity of Prince Ito and his associates.
In the five years since the war more has
been done in Korea under Japanese ad-
ministration to make human life worth
living than had been done in a hundred
years previously.

If there were not so many backsliders
and so many too-far-aheaders in the
Democratic party, perhaps the entire
outfit might land somewhere all in a
bunch occasionally.

And there stands the Senate, too, you
know! A long, dark, rough, and rugged
way stretched ahead of us, brethren.

A year ago an ardent Missouri pastor
of Democratic persuasion prayed for
tariff revision, but with an increased
duty on zinc, nevertheless. The pious
petition has been granted in the new
tariff bill just introduced in the House,
but whether this Missouriian should thank
the Lord or Sereno Payne for the same,
we leave it to him to determine.

The greater part of the comment on
President Taft's first message to Con-
gress devotes itself to the things he did
not say.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller's clerical ad-
viser says drinking is not wrong, but
excessive drinking is. Does the good
gentleman advocate the same theory in
respect of money getting?

The Kaiser has forbidden German
army officers to smoke in the presence
of ladies at formal social functions.
Surely this imperial utterance will not
bring forth an anti-Kaiser protest from
the German masses.

"Mr. Debs is not particularly pleased
with Mr. Taft's Cabinet," says the Mil-
waukee Sentinel. Well, well, now, that
is too bad. Why on earth did Mr. Debs
not let it be known sooner?

It is no longer necessary, we believe,
for Mr. Longworth to wear smoked
glasses in order to feel comfortable in
the reflected lightning.

Sincere revisionists will do well, we
think, to keep a sharp lookout for dimi-
nutive jokers and seal-brown pikaninnies
in the tariff woodpile.

"I venture to suggest" has a court-
eous ring, and, mayhap, was psychological-
ly apropos. Notwithstanding that, how-
ever, we suspect it was enough to cause
the big stick to turn over in its new-
made grave.

Still, in contemplating the Democratic
minority and the "insurgents" in the
House, it is well, perhaps, not to lose
sight entirely of the old adage about "the
devil was sick, the devil a monk would
be."

The consensus of opinion seems to be
that Secretary of War Dickinson is a
Democrat who long ago managed to
shake off the habit.

We half-way suspect Secretary Car-
penter's principal job at the White House
is going to be sawing wood.

Balm of Gilead is on the free list (see
page 147, paragraph 490). Salvation is
and always has been free! Hallelujah!

"What is a joke?" inquired Mr. An-
drew Carnegie of a reporter recently. If
Mr. Carnegie had only heard Mr. John
Dalzell's recent eulogy on the House
rules of the Sixtieth Congress, the great
steel king would not be asking such a
question nowadays. He would know to
a certainty.

Again are we reminded, "The tariff is
the mother of trusts." And a pretty en-
thusiastic anti-race suicider, too, eh?

The real excitement will come in this
country, however, when the revision of
the baseball percentage tables get well
under way.

"Mr. Roosevelt will raise a beard in
Africa," says a contemporary. Some peo-
ple would have us believe he is merely
going to raise a disturbance.

A lot of newspapers are prattling
about "Cannibalism" and "Cannoni-
sm," but, however, that could not ex-
plain to say the least what they really
mean by "Cannibalism," if pushed to the
wall.

Already the emphatic, depressing, and
aching void occasioned by Mr. John Wes-
ley Gaines' withdrawal from Congress
sits heavy on our souls—aching voids do
frequently sit heavy on people's souls,
you know. We should much admire to
hear a little of his nifty line of talk on
the floor about now, as Samuel Blythe
would say.

It seems that the lately reported Cu-
ban rebellion involved eight men. In
some Central American countries that
would be counted almost a success, if not
quite.

The tennis court has been abolished at
the White House, but the score seems to
stand "love all" under the new order of
things, anyway.

Loosening Party Ties.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.
It is much the fashion to attribute to
Speaker Cannon the blame for the oligar-
chic rules. There is a modicum of
cant in that. Mr. Cannon is following
in the wake of Speaker Reed, and, more-
over, he is doing exactly that which his
party has instructed him to do. Even
when the great revolution took place it
will be noted that the old rules were fa-
vored by 188 Republicans in a Republican
membership of 218 in the House. The Czars
came in quite handy when the McKin-
ley and Dingley tariff bills were to be
passed through Congress. It now ap-
pears that they are not needed, and it is
also evident, when Republicans join with
the whole Democratic party to overthrow
the Republican organization programme,
that the party ties are not binding so
harshly as of yore.

Another Item of Leadership.

From the Cleveland Leader.
Undoubtedly America leads the world.
What do they know about burning men at
the stake in any other country?

The Country's Safety.

From the Ohio State Journal.
Another reassuring thought is that Nick
Longworth still paces the deck of the old
ship of state.

Rather Weak.

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.
We have met coffee that could hardly
stand having a tax put on it.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

BLIGHTING THE BUDS.

This rainy weather blights the buds.
They can't come out.
Beyond a doubt
They are deterred by springtime floods.

This rainy weather blights the buds.
I mean the girls
With glossy curls,
Who would display their new spring duds.

In Baalbe.
"Who is that man weeping among the
ruins?"

"A real estate agent. He is overcome
by the decrease of values in Baalbe."
"How now?"
"He says land here was once worth 250
sestertii per front foot."

A Press Humorist.
"You have a wealth of humor."
"Thanks."
"Must be hard to originate so many
witticisms."
"Oh, I inherited my jokes."

A Hope.
I hope that we
This year may see
Unfolding soon, the real thing.
A poet's muse
Will not enmesh
About a pesky almost-spring.

Misaligned.
"I'm afraid I can't write that promised
article on 'System.'"
"Why not?"
"I can't find my notes."

The Sole Theme.
This happens every fine day in Wash-
ington:
Two citizens meet.
"Fine day," says number one.
"Great," declares the party of the second
part.
Duet and chorus: "What a pity the in-
surrection wasn't slated for to-day!"

At the Muscular.
"Why do they talk so when the profes-
sor is playing?"
"Oh, very few have the fortitude to suf-
fer it, I suppose."

TARIFF HUGGER MUGGER.

Minority Given No Chance to Criti-
cize the New Bill.
From the New York Times.

Does the country realize that no single
member of the minority of the Ways and
Means Committee has any information as
to what the majority has determined in
regard to tariff rates, or will have until
ready for the House, and then only for
a day or two will be allowed to the
minority to study the report?

The most bigoted party man will not
assert that this is a proper way of dealing
with a question of such importance. The
natural function of the minority is to
criticize, and for wholesome and helpful
criticism reasonably full knowledge and
time for study and deliberation are ob-
viously necessary. Criticism is not in-
evitably adverse, and it is quite possible
that fair and decent joint consideration
of matters might save time and lead
to a wiser and more practical mode of
revision. As it is, this advantage is
denied to the nation. The old beaten
path will be followed. The minority will
present a report of its own, which will
serve merely as a text for speciousmak-
ing and a basis for a glib and un-
grievous action. The bill will be pushed
through the House in a couple of weeks,
the beneficiaries of the tariff will flock to
the Finance Committee of the Senate,
that body will give hearings, then the
Senate will take the matter up, and after
months, perhaps, the bill will go to a
conference committee, where the revision
will finally be settled on. In the Senate
Committee the action of the majority will
be of the same arbitrary fashion as in the
House Committee. At no stage of the
tedious and disturbing proceeding will
be anything like rational and public
cooperation between the House and Sen-
ate members of the two parties to secure
a sensible and desirable result.

The explanation is simple. The tariff is
not treated as a great public meas-
ure, as are such matters of justice, that, in
its origin, its purpose, and its develop-
ment, is what it is. The present majority
of the Ways and Means Committee has
shown some disposition to handle it in
the manner of a private business, and the
tyranny of custom based on greed and
organized private interests. That tyr-
anny can be broken down only by the
force of a definite, intelligent, and gen-
eral public opinion, effectively repre-
sented at Washington. The next leg-
islative year will show whether this is to be
attained.

MERE MAN'S STRUGGLE.

Some Few Things in Which He Is
Distancing Woman.

From the Pittsburgh Courier.
When woman is struggling strenuously
to secure the ballot, man is distancing
her in many of the fields where she has
hitherto held the monopoly. The broom,
her whirly weapon, has been wrested
from her by the pneumatic cleaner.
Socks are darned by machine, and the
piano player has brought the "Stephanie
Gavotte" into desuetude. Now another
broom has been struck at the supremacy
of the vacuum cleaner, and the vacuum
cleaner's exclusive domain is the home.
The gold medal at the convention of the
National Milliners' Association. This is
a mere cruel humiliation that the recent
award to a man of the prize for the best
battle song in woman's campaign. The
man who has earned this distinction is a
civil engineer by profession, a mathematician
by training, the son of a millionaire,
and only twenty-two years old. This
award of a gold medal to a man for a
punch recipe—whisky to make it
strong, water to make it weak; lemon
to make it sour, and sugar to make it
sweet. The modern feminine head-
gear for its construction
requires the youth of the
enthusiasm of Croesus, a mastery of
trigonometry and calculus, and the engi-
neering talent that might create a sus-
pension bridge, or an Eiffel Tower.
Walter H. Doherty, who combined these
qualifications, will go down in history
as the first man to apply the principles
of engineering to the building
of a woman's hat.

Will woman realize ever it is too late
that, while she is grasping after this
bauble, the ballot, which bothers its pre-
sent possessor so much, she is letting slip
what many things that are far bet-
ter? What is the privilege of voting for
Terence O'Flanagan compared with the
divine creative energy that goes into the
architecture of a millinery miracle? Let
woman reflect and choose the better part.

Educational Failures.

From the New York Herald.
There is a widespread discussion among
educators as to why American colleges
are not turning out more men with men-
tal "grip." The elements in the problem
are too many and too complex to al-
low of correct generalization on the mo-
ment. Possibly we have no greater ques-
tion to settle than how to make both pub-
lic school and higher education produc-
tive of personal efficiency.

Better Not.

From the Detroit News.
There is said to be in process of forma-
tion a dried apple trust; but maybe
the promoters will be afraid to add any
water.

Pride of Old Age.

From the Boston Globe.
When an elderly man enjoys perfect
health he is as proud of it as a handsome
young woman of her beauty.

TAX WEALTH, NOT POOR.

But Why Not Add Clothing to the Exemption?

From the Philadelphia Press.
The revision of the tariff this year has
a double task. The rates must be revised
and \$100,000,000 of additional revenue
must be raised.

The Committee on Ways and Means
has been wise in its tariff in leaving out
the tax on coffee and imposing a tax
on inheritances. It is better to tax
wealth than to tax food.

European countries raise a large por-
tion of their revenue by taxes on tea
and coffee. England raises nearly half
its revenue from duties by taxes on food.
Sugar is dutiable in this country, but
there is for this the sound reason that
the duty protects home-grown sugar, now
one-fifth of the whole, and fosters sugar
in Cuba. Abolish the duty on sugar and
the reduction in the Cuban product would
advance the price of more than the re-
duction from the abolition of the duty.

The McKinley tariff, in spite of this,
abolished the duty on sugar and its con-
sumption increased with great rapidity
under the stimulus of cheap sugar. If it
were not for its protection of the home
sugar product and its effect on our insu-
lar neighbors there would be little to be
said even for the duty on sugar.

No duties on food have no defense.
They ought not to be imposed. Tax
wealth instead of food.

INCOME TAX AND COURTS.

Misapprehension Regarding the De-
cisions Cleared Up.
From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Prince Victor Bonaparte, in arguing
against the adoption of the income tax in
France, gave an egregious example of
the way in which the sense of Supreme
Court decisions can be misinterpreted
at a distance. He asserted that the pro-
posal for an income tax in this country
was overruled by the Supreme Court be-
cause it was "prejudicial to the equality
of citizens."

Certainly, whatever may be the con-
fusion of public understanding as to the
grounds of the decision against the in-
come tax, it was not on that ground at
all. The reasoning of most of the judges
who were against the tax was that the
tax was invalid because it was a direct
tax, which, under the Constitution, can-
not be levied by Congress "unless in prop-
portion to the census," an evident im-
possibility in the collection of an income
tax. The majority opinion was founded
entirely on the division of powers be-
tween national and state governments,
a difficulty which has no existence in the
French case.

Moreover, in quoting the Supreme Court
as a guide to the propriety of such a
tax, he published a month ago, show-
ing that one fact is the property of such
tax at one time upheld the tax as
valid; at another time declared it invalid.
The latter decision, being the last word
in the matter, is law in this country.

But as bearing on the question of prin-
ciple or policy we have Supreme Court
authority on both sides. Recogniz-
ing also that they were different judges
who gave the different opinions in the
same court, it is interesting to note that
a majority of the judges who have passed
on that tax found in its favor.

FAVORING THE FOREIGNER.

Profits at Both Ends When He Deals
With Us.
From the American Magazine.

One of the most insuperable features
of the tariff as it is now working out
is one most unjust to the poor—the while
we are paying these high prices at home
our protected manufacturers are supply-
ing Englishmen and Frenchmen and
Chinese with the same articles at prices
from 10 to 70 per cent lower! Indeed, the
Dingley bill had not been long in opera-
tion before the administration itself
warned the iron and steel people officially
that they were in danger of giving the
same away if they continued to sell steel
rolls for months together, to foreigners
for \$2 a ton, while they charged their
compatriots \$5.

But the warning seems to have had
little effect. Frank manufacturers like
Mr. Schwab have said, of course, we sell
cheaper to foreigners. We must—not only
that, but we sell materials to our fellow-
manufacturers cheaper when they are to
be turned into goods for foreigners than
we do when they are to be turned into
goods for our own people! Two years ago
Byron W. Holt made out catalogues of
American manufacturers a table of
prices for home and foreign markets. It
was a beautiful study in gratitude. Mr.
Holt names over 250 different articles on
which at that date discounts of from 10
to 66 per cent were quoted to fore-
ign than to home buyers! An American
dealer paid \$5.50 for potato hoes which a
foreigner could buy for \$4.50. All farm
tools indeed were sold abroad far lower
than at home, thanks to the farm tools
trust. He paid \$15 a dozen for wooden
shovel-rows for which the foreigner
paid \$14.50. He paid \$3 for the incubator
which to the dealer over the border was
quoted at \$15. He paid \$20.25 a gross for
soap which the foreign dealer bought for
\$2.48, and so one might go on with
scores of articles of daily use in farming,
in housekeeping, in all sorts of trades.

So sweeping is this practice that the
tariff reform committee declared, after
an investigation of the export trade for
the year ended in 1906, that of \$52,
000,000 exports of that year, 85 to 90 per
cent were sold on an average of 20 per
cent lower than at home. It sometimes
seems as if the great American system
for making the foreigner pay the duty
had resulted in presenting it to the for-
eigner. He buys our goods cheaper than
we can buy them, and like Mr. Coats, he
establishes his factory here and, protect-
ed from world competition, drives our
own manufacturers into his combina-
tion, runs the business from the other
side of the waters, and charges us twice
as much as he can his countrymen!

Nonpartisanship.